

## Friends of Compton Creek

1450 E. Compton Blvd., Suite 150 • Compton, California 90221 • (310) 387-8385 friendsofcomptoncreek@yahoo.com

February 13, 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair California State Coastal Conservancy 1330 Broadway Suite, 13th Floor Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Compton Creek Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the Coastal Conservancy Staff Proposal to fund a feasibility study for restoring the earthen-bottom portion of Compton Creek.

The Compton Creek Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study will investigate specific channel habitat enhancement scenarios and public access improvements along a 2.8-mile earthen bottom reach of Compton Creek. The analysis will result in designs and cost estimates for at least four improvement projects. All scenarios will meet Los Angeles County's updated flood protection requirements and be reviewed by stakeholders for comment.

The study will include the following elements:

- Gap data collection,
- Engineering (HEC-RAS and Channel Capacity Evaluation),
- Cost and feasibility analysis for implementation of creek enhancements,
- Biology for wetland, riparian and upland habitat enhancement and restoration under highly urbanized conditions,
- Trail access improvements, and
- Designs and cost estimates for at least four habitat enhancement and trail scenarios.

We incorporated in 2001 with the goal of improving the Compton Creek for the people of Compton. Most recently we've won a grant from the LA County Open Space District to connect our municipal bike path with LA County's bike path running through the proposed project area. This project will be completed in the next several years, allowing the children of Compton to ride their bikes all the way to the beach in the city of Long Beach. The restoration feasibility study is important to us because we want our children to have an experience in nature and feel connected to the Los Angeles River and the Pacific Ocean as they ride down through Compton Creek.

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

Page 2

February 13, 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco

Letter of Support for Feasibility Study (Continued)

We are excited about the benefits the results of this study will offer.

11 12

Sincerely,

Kristine R. Bailey

Acting Executive Director

RECEIVED

FEB 1.6 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY OAKLAND, CALIF. Exhibit 4: Letters of Support



1444 9th Street Santa Monica CA 90401 tel 310-451-1500 fax 310-496-1902 info@healthebay.org

I AYLS

## Heal the Bay.

Douglas Bosco California State Coastal Conservancy 1330 Broadway Suite 13th Floor Oakland, CA 94612

RE Support for Compton Creek Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Bosco.

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization with over 10,000 members dedicated to making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy, and clean. For the past six years, Heal the Bay has been very active in the Compton Creek watershed and cleaning up Compton Creek. As such, we support the Coastal Conservancy Staff Proposal to fund a feasibility study for restoring the earthen-bottom portion of Compton Creek.

The Compton Creek Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study will investigate specific channel habitat enhancement scenarios and public access improvements along a 2.8-mile earthen bottom reach of Compton Creek. The analysis will result in designs and cost estimates for at least four improvement projects along the soft-bottom portion of the creek.

The soft-bottom portion of the Compton Creek is an extremely valuable resource because of its riparian habitat. As development and land-uses continue to decrease the amount of permeable surface in Los Angeles, which leads to increase dry and wet weather runoff volumes, the role of our still semi-natural and natural rivers, creeks, and streams becomes singular-conveyance systems. In such a scenario, conveyance systems serve one purpose, to prevent flooding, and therefore need to be extremely efficient at moving water. This efficiency necessitates an engineering approach to controlling nature, channelization, which requires hardening our naturalized waterbodies into cement boxed channels, absent of any life or character. The Compton Creek Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study, in the same vein as the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council's Compton Creek Watershed Management Plan and the City of Compton's Regional Garden Park Master Plan, envisions a different outcome for the creek, one that is more natural, and needing protection and restoration.

We urge the Coastal Conservancy Board to support the Compton Creek Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study by funding it. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

James Alamillo

Urban Programs Manager

RECEIVED

FEB 1 6 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY OAKLAND, CALIF,





6 February 2007

Douglas Bosco, Chair California Coastal Conservancy 1330 Broadway, 13th Floor Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Compton Creek Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Bosco,

I am writing on behalf of Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) a non-profit river advocacy organization with over twenty years of service for communities and nature. FoLAR supports the Coastal Conservancy staff proposal to fund a feasibility study for restoration of the soft-bottom portion of Compton Creek.

The Compton Creek Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study will investigate improving habitat and public access along the downstream three miles of lower Compton Creek, immediately before its confluence with the Los Angeles River.

Lower Compton Creek is one of only six significant non-concrete stretches of creek- and river-bed in the urbanized portion of the Los Angeles River watershed. The creek is located adjacent to the Metro Blue Line, hence very accessible to transit riders. It also has easy bike access via the newly opened Compton Creek Bikeway and the Lario Trail on the lower L.A. River. FoLAR hosts annual clean-ups there and leads occasional walking tours of the area. Restoration of Compton Creek will serve environmental justice by bringing nature to highly urbanized underserved areas, with residents that are primarily Latino and African-American.

Though lower Compton Creek is very degraded, it still hosts egrets, herons, ducks, hawks, migrating waterfowl and shrikes. I urge you to support efforts to bring this waterway back to health.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely.

Shelly Backlar, Executive Director

**FoLAR** 

Los Angeles River Center 570 W. Ave 26 Suite 250 Los Angeles, CA 90065-1047

Tel: 323-223-0585 Fax: 323-223-2289 WWW.folar.org E-Mail: mail@folar.org RECEIVED

FEB 1 6 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY OAKLAND, CALIF.



HAVES

YVONNE ARCENEAUX

Councilwoman District 3

(310) 605-5590 Fax. (310) 605-5449

February 13, 2007

Mr. Douglas Bosco, Chair California State Coastal Conservancy 1330 Broadway Suite, 13th Floor Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Support for Compton Creek Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing to express my support for the Coastal Conservancy staff proposal to fund a feasibility study for restoring the earthen-bottom portion of Compton Creek.

The Compton Creek Wetland Restoration Feasibility Study will investigate specific channel habitat enhancement scenarios and public access improvements along a 2.8-mile earthen bottom reach of Compton Creek. The analysis will result in designs and cost estimates for at least four improvement projects. All scenarios will meet Los Angeles County's updated flood protection requirements and be reviewed by stakeholders for comment.

The study will include the following elements:

- Gap data collection,
- Engineering (HEC-RAS and Channel Capacity Evaluation),
- Cost and feasibility analysis for implementation of creek enhancements,
- Biology for wetland, riparian and upland habitat enhancement and restoration under highly urbanized conditions,
- · Trail access improvements, and
- Designs and cost estimates for at least four habitat enhancement and trail scenarios.

A small portion of the project area is within our city, we support the study because it will mesh with the Compton Creek Regional Garden Park Master Plan, which was funded by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and adopted by our City Council.

COMPTON CITY HALL

205 South Willowbrook Avenue Compton, California 90220

Exhibit 4: Letters of Support

Page 2 February 12, 2007 Support for Compton Creek Wetlands Study (Continued)

As Councilwoman of the Third District, I fought hard for twelve years to improve the condition of Compton Creek, which included the development of the Regional Garden Park Master Plan. I also see that we need to connect this first-class plan with the Los Angeles River, and the rest of Los Angeles County.

I am, therefore, pleased to give my support to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Yyonne Arceneaux Councilwoman-3<sup>rd</sup> District

## RECEIVED

FEB 1 6 2007

COASTAL CONSERVANCY OAKLAND, CALIF.